



Division of Educational Development

Date: February 13th, 2015

Subject: EMS Certification Course Delivery

For **initial EMS Certification Courses beginning on or after July 1, 2015**, the Virginia Office of EMS will approve delivery methods in addition to the traditional format. More will follow as we finalize the necessary policy. The following items provide an overview to what will start July 1, 2015:

1. For EMS certification courses beginning on or after July 1, 2015, the office will allow delivery in either traditional or online (alternative) format. This requires that you utilize newly designed Course Approval Request forms reflecting the delivery format the course will use.
2. For EMS certification courses beginning on or after July 1, 2015, the office will no longer specify minimum course didactic and lab contact hours. This will apply to both traditional and online programs.
3. EMS certification courses whose begin date is before July 1, 2015 and whose end date is on or after July 1, 2015, must comply with all regulations for which the program was started.
4. The program remains responsible to assure knowledge competency in all areas as defined by the VEMSES.
5. All labs must be conducted in person and live. A certified Education Coordinator (EC) must be present in the classroom during the lab activity. Student teacher ratio remains at 6:1.
 - a. Programs accredited at the level for which the certification course is being offered do not need to have an EC present, but can only use those faculty listed as part of their approved staff.
 - b. For online programs conducting lab activity beyond their home base; cannot initiate lab at the remote site until that site has been officially recognized by the Va. Office of EMS and/or CAAHEP.
- c. All lab staff must at a minimum be certified at or above the level of the certification program.
- d. Labs will not be defined by hours but by competency as defined by the EC/Program Director and PCD.
6. There is **NO** change to the hour or competency requirement for either the hospital or field component of the program.
7. Eligibility for EMSTF requires the certification course coordinator/accredited program be above the 16th percentile pass rate when compared to other Va. certification programs or, greater than or equal to the National pass rate. The pass rate is calculated using the third attempt pass rate of the National Registry test data for the previous three (3) fiscal years.
8. This policy only applies to EMS certification courses. It does not change any aspect of continuing education or auxiliary programs.
9. Contact the Division of Educational Development with any questions. 804-888-9120.